



This document is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on 10/11/2016 and available online at <https://federalregister.gov/d/2016-24448>, and on [FDsys.gov](https://FDsys.gov)

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Docket No.: ED-2016-ICCD-0035**

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and approval; Comment Request; Accrediting Agencies Reporting Activities for Institutions and Programs**

**AGENCY:** Department of Education (ED), Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE)

**ACTION:** Notice

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995), ED is proposing a new information collection.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before [insert the 30th day after publication of this notice].

**ADDRESSES:** To access and review all the documents related to the information collection listed in this notice, please use <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching the Docket ID number ED-2016-ICCD-0035. Comments submitted in response to this notice should be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> by selecting the Docket ID number or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. *Please note that comments submitted by fax or e-mail and those submitted after the comment period will not be accepted.* Written requests for information or comments submitted by postal mail or delivery should be addressed to the Director of the Information Collection Clearance Division, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, LBJ, Room 2E-347, Washington, D.C. 20202-4537.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Herman Bounds, 202-453-6128.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Education (ED), in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. ED is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity

of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

*Title of Collection:* Accrediting Agencies Reporting Activities for Institutions and Programs

*OMB Control Number:* 1840-NEW

*Type of Review:* A new information collection

*Respondents / Affected Public:* Private Sector

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 8,050

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 2,689

*Abstract:* Sections 496(a)(7), (a)(8), (c)(7), and (c)(8) of the Higher Education Act (HEA), and federal regulations at 34 CFR 602.26 and 602.27(a)(6) and (a)(7) contain certain requirements for reporting by recognized accrediting agencies to the Department on the institutions and programs the agencies accredit. The proposed information collection outlines categories of terminology used by accrediting agencies to describe actions and statuses, and provides guidance to federally recognized accrediting agencies on the information to be reported to the Department under 34 CFR 602.26 and 602.27(a)(6) and (a)(7). Some of the reporting discussed is required; some is requested. This collection specifies which is which. It also discusses the channel for reporting this information, whether requested or required, and for reporting information the accrediting agency may wish to submit voluntarily to ensure that the Department's Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs is accurate and comprehensive.

Dated: October 5, 2016

Kate Mullan, Acting Director  
Information Collection Clearance Division  
Office of the Chief Privacy Officer  
Office of Management

**[BILLING CODE 4000-01-P]**

[FR Doc. 2016-24448 Filed: 10/7/2016 8:45 am; Publication Date: 10/11/2016]